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REMARKS

Claims 1-25, 27-41, and 43-46 are pending. Claims 1-, 6-12, 15-25, 32, 33, 38-41, 43 and 44 stand rejected variously under §102 and §103. Applicants wish to cordially thank the Examiner for allowed claims 27-31, 45 and 46, as well as for the allowable subject matter indicated with respect to claims 4, 5, 13, 14 and 34-37, but for their dependence on rejected claims. Claims 1, 5, 22, 32, 35, and 38-40 have been amended, while claims 4 and 34 have been cancelled, leaving claims 1-3, 5-25, 27-33, 35-41, and 43-46 pending upon entry of the present amendment. No new matter has been added.

Claim Rejections -35 USC § 102

Claims 1, 2, 8, 11, 22, 24, 25, 32, and 33 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Doolittle et al. (U.S. Patent No. 3,472,092). Applicants respectfully traverse.

The Examiner alleges that Doolittle et al. disclose a means for eliminating backlash between meshing gears, wherein one of the gears is formed with flexible teeth and engages corresponding teeth of a second gear with double flank contact. Further, the Examiner alleges that Doolittle et al. describes the meshing teeth as an "interfering mesh" (column 3 line 70) and that "flexing of the rim and the web at the meshing areas introduces loading which urges the gear teeth 18 of gear 10 into tighter meshing engagement with the teeth of the other gears, thereby taking up an lost motion and eliminating backlash" (column 4, lines 4-9).

However, the Examiner has indicated that the claim limitations with respect to claim 4 of the present application are neither taught nor suggested by Doolittle et al. More specifically, Doolittle et al. do not teach or suggest a worm having a plurality of teeth defined by at least one thread disposed thereon, wherein flank surfaces of each of said teeth of said worm are convexly arcuately formed, as in amended claim 1. Thus claim 1, including claims depending therefrom, i.e., claims 2, 3, and 5-21, define over Doolittle et al.

Claim 32 has been amended to similarly include the limitations of claim 4

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indicated as allowable subject matter, i.e., wherein said each tooth [of said worm gear] is concavely-formed relative to said each tooth of said plurality of teeth, thus defining over Doolittle et al.

Claim 22 from which claims 24 and 25 depend, has been amend to include the claim limitation of Figure 5 indicated as being allowable subject matter, i.e., a worm having gear teeth, wherein flank surfaces of each of said gear teeth of said worm are convexly arcuately formed. Thus, claims 22, 24, 25, and 32 define over Doolittle et al.

Claim Rejections -35 USC § 103

Claims 1-3, 6-12, 15, 16-25, 32, 33, 38-41, 43, and 44 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hotline (U.S. Patent No. 2,764,034) in view of Doolittle et al. (US Patent 3,472,092). Applicants respectfully traverse.

As discussed above, the independent claims have been amended to include the limitations disclosed in at least one of claims 4 and/or 5 indicated as containing allowable subject matter defining over Doolittle et al. More specifically, neither Hotline nor Doolittle et al. alone or in combination, teach or suggest, flank surfaces of each of said teeth of said worm are convexly arcuately formed and/or flank surfaces of each tooth of a plurality of teeth on said worm gear are concavely arcuately formed relative to each tooth of a plurality of teeth defining said worm gear.

Furthermore, use of the alleged teachings of Hotline in combination with Doolittle et al. does not cure the deficiencies noted above with respect to Doolittle et al. Thus, it is respectfully requested that the rejection to claims 1-3, 6-12, 15, 16-25, 32, 33, 38-41, 43, and 44 be withdrawn.

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It is believed that the foregoing remarks fully comply with the Office Action and that claims 1-21 are allowable. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance is requested. The Examiner is cordially invited to contact the undersigned by telephone to expedite the allowance of this application.

If additional charges are incurred with respect to this Amendment, they may be charged to Deposit Account Number 06-1130 maintained by Applicants' attorneys.

Respectfully submitted,

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